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FM AMEMBASSY KANUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0600

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

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INFO AFGHAN WAR COLL-CTIVE

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C D N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 10 KABUL 00880

MILITARY ADDRESSES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

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0.0. 12356: DECL: DADR

TAGS: PREL, MOP, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

REF: A) KABUL 0077; B) KABUL 00873

1. (U) FOR ISLAMABAD AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO

DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TO BRIEF PRESS.

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2. SUMMARY:

A. (U) TO BE BRIEFED TO PRESS: MANY KABUL RESIDENTS

WELCOMED THIS WEEK'S SIGNING OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS AS

SIGNALLING THE BEGINNING OF GOVERNMENT TALKS WITH THE TALIBANS BUT

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FEW FORESAW AN IMMEDIATE END TO FIGHTING. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH DIPLOMATS, KABUL RESIDENTS APPEARED CONTEMPTUOUS OF THE NAJIBULLAH REGIME. DURING THE WEEK, SECURITY IN THE CAPITAL WAS NOTABLY FIRMER AS FIGHTING, VISIBLE FROM THE CITY, RAGED TO THE SOUTH, WEST AND NORTH. THE INDIAN CONSULATE IN JALALABAD HAS CEASED OPERATIONS IN THE WAKE OF REPORTS THAT SOVIET TROOPS WILL SOON BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE CITY. DURING THE WEEK, COMMUNAL VIOLENCE SPARKED BY ELECTIONS FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LEFT SIX DEAD IN JALALABAD. THE REGIME COMMANDER OF THE KANDAHAR BARRISONS RETURNED TO KABUL THIS WEEK VOWING NOT TO RESUME HIS DUTIES AND COMPLAINING ABOUT KHALI-PARCHAM PARTY FACTIONALISM THERE. MUJAHIDIN PRESSURE ON KANDAHAR HAS INCREASED OVER THE PAST MONTH WITH PARTICULARLY INTENSE FIGHTING DURING THIS WEEK. THE REGIME IN TURN, IS PRESSING MUJAHIDIN WHO RECENTLY OCCUPIED THE IMPORTANT DISTRICT

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CENTER OF PARUJAI WEST OF KANDAHAR. MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY CAPTURED THE GOVERNOR OF KUNDUZ AND THE HEAD OF THE PROVINCIAL SARANDOI FORCES. NAJIBULLAH REPORTEDLY WAS REFUSED IN A BID TO SECURE THE COOPERATION OF IMPORTANT HERAT MUJAHIDIN COMMANDER ISMAEL KHAN BY OFFERING HIM THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER. IN PARUJAI, MUJAHIDIN HAVE KILLED THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CENTRAL ARMY CORPS, A MAJOR GENERAL. SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES HAVE PULLED BACK FROM AN IMPORTANT POINT IN THE PARUJAI. SOVIET AND REGIME AIR AND ARTILLERY HAVE SHARDED GHORABAND, RECENTLY SEIZED BY THE MUJAHIDIN, DRIVING THE CIVILIAN POPULATION INTO THE HILLS. IN OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED DEVELOPMENTS, ANOTHER REPORT HAS APPEARED CORROBORATING EARLIER ACCOUNTS OF RECENT EXECUTIONS AT PUL-I-CHARKHI PRISON. FIGHTING IS REPORTED IN MANY AREAS INCLUDING: LOGAR, WHERE SOVIET FORCES DEPLOYED IN GREAT STRENGTH EARLY IN THE WEEK; SHAZNI, WHERE MUJAHIDIN HAVE TAKEN MANY PRISONERS IN AN ATTACK ON A MAJOR REGIME ENCAMPMENT; WARDAK, WHERE MUJAHIDIN CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE KABUL - SHAZNI ROAD; HERAT, WHERE REGIME AND SOVIET TROOPS HAVE SECURED AN IMPORTANT ROAD; PAKTIA, WITH HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND IT; PAKISTAN, WHERE SOVIET AND REGIME TROOPS REPORTEDLY HAVE CLASHED. THE KABUL MEDIA HAS REVEALED THAT AN AN-26 DOWNED BY THE MUJAHIDIN APRIL 10, WAS NOT IN FACT A CIVILIAN CRAFT AS ORIGINALLY ALLEGED. SOVIETS CONTINUE A MAJOR MILITARY RESUPPLY OF REGIME FORCES. MUJAHIDIN, MEANWHILE, HAVE INCREASED THEIR HARASSMENT OF SOVIET AND REGIME SUPPLY COLUMNS ON THE SALANG ROAD. NEWS OF THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS HAS SUBSTANTIALLY STRENGTHENED THE AFGHANIS AS

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PROSPECTS GROW FOR INCREASED DEMAND FOR THE CURRENCY BY

RETURNING REFUGEES.

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INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

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AMEMBASSY KUNMING

USIA WASHDC 2345

JIA WASHDC

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PT BRAGG NC ARMS//RDE//SM

CINCPAC HQ HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HFDILLBERG GE

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E.D. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MORT, MCRP, PHUM, PIMS, PIR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN WAR SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

3. (C) NOT TO BE RELEASED TO PRESS: THE SOVIETS REPORTEDLY

HAVE STOCKED IMPORTANT REGIME CITIES WITH ONE YEAR'S

SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION. PUL-I-KHUMRI IS THE CENTRAL

AMMUNITION RESERVE. AN IRANIAN-BASED MUJAHIDIN GROUP

REPORTEDLY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH LAST WEEK OF A

REGIME GENERAL IN PARWAN. THE RUMOR WILL CHURN UP

ANOTHER CANDIDATE FOR LOWER HOUSE SPEAKER. THE ICRC'S

PLANS FOR A MAJOR PRESENCE IN KABUL CONTINUE TO UNFOLD.

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THE NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR

END SUMMARY.

3. (U) KABUL CITY DEVELOPMENTS:

1. THE MOOD IN KABUL: KABUL RESIDENTS REACTED TO THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA ACCORDS CALMLY WITH MOST WELCOMING WHAT IS NOW GENERALLY PERCEIVED AS A REAL SOVIET PULLOUT. WHILE MOST KABUL RESIDENTS APPEAR TO EXPECT HARD FIGHTING IN AND AROUND KABUL ONCE THE SOVIET FORCES WITHDRAW FROM THE CAPITAL AREA, MOST SEE IT AS THE CLIMACTIC ROUND IN A DECADE OF WAR. THE SENSE OF RELIEF APPEARS TO BE TAKING THE FORM OF MORE OUTPOKENNESS ON THE PART OF KABUL RESIDENTS. REACTING TO THE PRESENCE OF NAJIBULLAH AT THE SHARAF MOQUE, APRIL 14, WHERE HE WENT INTO FRANK BUT NOT PLEASANT. MANY OF THE REGULAR VISITERS SPOKE OPENLY OF NAJIBULLAH'S POOR PROFESSION OF FAITH AS FALSE, CRITICIZING HIM WITHIN EARSHOT OF HIS BODYGUARDS. BODYGUARDS, AFTER THE SIGNING, SPOKE OPENLY OF THEIR HOPE THAT THE MUJAHIDIN

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WOULD SOON COME TO KABUL. IN AN UNUSUAL SHOW OF DISCRETION, A SHOP OWNER CASUALLY OBSERVED TO ONE WESTERN DIPLOMAT THAT THE TWO MEN WHO HAD FOLLOWED HIM INTO THE SHOP WERE "KHAD" (REGIME SECRET POLICE) CAUSING THE EMBARRASSED AGENTS TO LEAVE THE SHOP. REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME YOUNG MALES SEEKING TO AVOID MILITARY CONSCRIPTION NO LONGER FLEE TO PAKISTAN BUT RATHER GO INTO HIDING IN THE CITY, EXPECTING TO BE ABLE TO AVOID THE PRESSGANGS UNTIL THE EXPECTED DEMISE OF THE REGIME.
2. KABUL SECURITY: SECURITY IN KABUL TIGHTENED DURING THE WEEK: REGIME NIGHTTIME CHECKPOINTS WERE MORE AGGRESSIVE -- A REGIME SOLDIER WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD AND KILLED IN SHARAF MOQUE DURING THE WEEK FOR FAILING TO STOP AT A NIGHTTIME CHECKPOINT; DIPLOMATS THIS WEEK WERE BARRED FROM USING THE ROAD THAT PASSES IN FRONT OF THE PALACE-PARTY BUILDING GROUNDS; A COLUMN OF SOVIET ARMOR WAS SEEN ENTERING THE GROUNDS DURING THE WEEK AND A VEHICLE PARK HAS BEEN SET UP INSIDE THE COMPOUND; TRUCKLOADS OF SUPPLIES WERE BROUGHT INTO THE SOVIET COMPOUND APPEARED TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SECURITY CONSTRUCTION. SECURITY INCIDENTS INSIDE THE CITY REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AS LAST WEEK, SOME OF THE HEAVY FIGHTING SEEN FROM KABUL ON OVER A YEAR WAS OBSERVED TO THE SOUTH AND WEST OF THE CAPITAL, APRIL 14 AND 16.

4. (U) KABUL PROVINCE DEVELOPMENTS: FIGHTING SOUTH OF KABUL APPEARS TO HAVE INTENSIFIED FOLLOWING A MAJOR SOVIET DEPLOYMENT IN THE AREA EARLY IN THE WEEK. FIGHTING ALSO RAGED TO THE WEST OF THE CAPITAL WITH A

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INVOLVING HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, ARTILLERY AND ROCKETS WAS OBSERVED FROM KABUL OVER MUCH OF THE PASHMAN PLAIN AND INTO THE HILLS TO THE WEST. AN AFGHAN SUBSEQUENTLY SAID THAT CLASHES TOOK PLACE IN DARYA-I-PASHMAN, AS WELL AS ON THE PLAIN. AN IRA ENLISTED MAN CLAIMED THE FIGHTING DEVELOPED AS MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED SARANDOI AND KHAD POSTS IN THE PLAIN. HELICOPTERS FROM KABUL AIRPORT MOVED TOWARD THE FIGHTING BUT DID NOT GO BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS. SOME 15 KM FROM THE FIGHTING, APPARENTLY REFLECTING CONCERN ABOUT MUJAHIDIN ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITY, EVEN AT NIGHT. AN EAST BLOC DIPLOMAT AND AN AFGHAN SOURCE REPORTS THAT PRIOR TO THE ERUPTION OF FIGHTING WEST AND SOUTH OF THE CITY APRIL 14, MUJAHIDIN LAUNCHED ROCKETS INTO DARYA-I-PASHMAN.

4. KABUL SOUTH: AS THE FIGHTING IN PASHMAN WAS CONTINUING APRIL 14, HEAVY MACHINE GUN FIRE (AS INDICATED BY TRACER S), ARTILLERY FLARES AND ROCKET

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LAUNCHES AND IMPACTS WERE OBSERVED SOUTH OF THE CITY FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR. BETWEEN 2145 AND 2300, DIPLOMATS OBSERVED VERY HEAVY FLARE ACTIVITY TO THE SOUTH, NEAR KDH-I-SHERDAKAZA. THE FLARE ACTIVITY WAS CLOSE WHILE ARTILLERY OUTGOING FIRE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MORE DISTANT, POSSIBLY FROM THE RISHGOR-TAPE TAJBEK AREA. HELICOPTERS WERE NOTED MOVING TOWARD THE AREA.

5. KABUL NORTH: A MILITARY SOURCE REPORTS HEAVY FIGHTING DURING THE WEEK IN SHAKA DARREN IN THE SHOMALI, WITH MANY REGIME CASUALTIES. DAYTIME HELICOPTER MOVEMENT NORTH WAS OBSERVED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE WEEK AND AN AFGHAN REPORTED A LIFT OF HELICOPTERS MOVING NORTH BETWEEN 0330 AND 0400, APRIL 16. DURING THE FIGHTING TO THE WEST AND SOUTH OF KABUL, APRIL 14, DIPLOMATS ALSO OBSERVED FIGHTING TO THE NORTH. AFGHANS REPORT CLASHES IN THE KHAIR KHANA PASS, DASHTI CHANTARA (TO THE IMMEDIATE NORTHWEST OF THE PASS) AND AT KALAKAN (34°47'N 69°09'E). SOME FIRING WAS NOTED ALSO FROM THE AREA OF THE AIRPORT.

5. (U) NANGARHAR: THE INDIAN CONSULATE IN JALALABAD HAS CEASED OPERATIONS. A RELIABLE REPORT CLAIMS INDIA HAS WITHDRAWN ALL INDIAN NATIONALS, REMOVED DOCUMENTS AND SEALED THE FACILITY WHICH IS NOW UNDER THE GUARD OF A LONG AFGHAN NATIONAL LOCAL EMPLOYEE. (SENIOR INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS DENY THAT THE CONSULATE HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CLOSED BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TWO OFFICERS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FOR PERSONAL REASONS. JUNIOR EMBASSY STAFF CONCEDE THAT SAFETY OF THE FACILITY AND ITS STAFF PROMPTED THE CESSATION OF OPERATIONS. THE CURRENT REGIME DIPLOMATIC LIST IDENTIFIES NINE OFFICIALS AT THE

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CONSULATE.) RELIABLE REPORTS CLAIM THAT INDIAN
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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USIA WASHDC 2347

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOP, NCAP, PHUN, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

DECISION TO CEASE OPERATION OF THE CONSULATE WAS THE

ABSENCE SINCE OCTOBER OF REGULAR CIVILIAN FLIGHTS

BETWEEN KABUL AND JALALABAD. THE REGIME OFFERED SPACE

TO THE CONSULATE STAFF ON DAILY MILITARY FLIGHTS BETWEEN

THE TWO CITIES BUT THE INDIAN OFFICIALS DECLINED. THE

WITHDRAWAL COINCIDES WITH RUMORS SOURCED TO EAST

EUROPEAN AND INDIAN DIPLOMATS THAT SOVIET TROOPS SOON

WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE JALALABAD AREA. THE

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DEVELOPMENT COINCIDES WITH AN OUTBREAK OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN JALALABAD DURING THE WEEK. A RELIABLE AND KNOWN SOURCE REPORTS THAT, FOLLOWING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN JALALABAD, A SIKH RAN AGAINST A MUSLIM. FOLLOWING VICTORY BY THE SIKH CANDIDATE, HINDUS AND SIKHS STAGED A PROCESSION THROUGH THE CITY TO AN INDIAN/SIKH SHRINE. A CROWD FROM THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN JALALABAD, ANGERED BY THE PROCESSION, MOVED ON THE SHRINE WHICH WAS GUARDED BY A SINGLE REGIME SOLDIER. THE SOLDIER ATTEMPTED TO HALT THE CROWD BUT WAS KILLED. A CLASH ENSUED BETWEEN THE HINDUS AND SIKHS AND THE CROWD OUTSIDE WHICH LEFT SIX DEAD. A SEPARATE REPORT CLAIMS ONE LARGE EXPLOSION NEAR THE SHRINE, POSSIBLY CAUSED BY A SMALL BOMB OR A HAND GRENADE. MUJAHIDIN WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE CLASH WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN STRICTLY COMMUNAL.)

5. (U) PAKISTAN: FOLLOWING THE FALL OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER AT GHOWRBAND (REF A), SOVIET AND CONFIDENTIAL

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REGIME AIRCRAFT AND ARTILLERY CONDUCTED A HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF THE AREA AND OF NEARBY PUL-I-MATAK. THE REPRISAL BOMBARDMENT DROVE CIVILIANS FROM THE AREA INTO THE NEARBY HILLS. A LATE REPORT CLAIMS THAT IN THE FIGHTING FOR GHOWRBAND, MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED OR ACCEPTED THE SURRENDER OF NEARLY 200 RA TROOPS. KABUL MEDIA, DURING THE WEEK, REPORTED THE DEATH OF MAJOR GENERAL SHAH AQA, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE CENTRAL ARMY CORPS. ACCORDING TO THE REGIME REPORT, "EXTREMISTS ELEMENTS" ATTACKED THE GENERAL IN THE PUL-E-MATAK AREA. REPORTS OF THE GENERAL'S DEATH, WHICH HAD CIRCULATED IN KABUL PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT, CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN IN THE AREA REVIEWING THE MILITARY SITUATION AT GHOWRBAND. AN AFGHAN REPORTS THAT SOVIET AND REGIME UNITS HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM ASTANEH (35°21'N 69°34'E) IN THE PANJSHIR, LEAVING THE AREA OPEN TO MUJAHIDIN. (SEE "ROAD SECURITY" PARA 21 FOR REPORTING OF INCREASED MUJAHIDIN ATTACKS ON CONVOYS USING THE SALANG IN THE PROVINCE.)

7. (U) KUNDUZ: RELIABLE AFGHAN REPORTS THAT MUJAHIDIN, IN APRIL, CAPTURED THE GOVERNOR OF KUNDUZ AND THE CHIEF OF SARANDOI FORCES IN THE PROVINCE ALONG WITH TWO SENIOR REGIME MILITARY OFFICERS. THE PARTY HAD SOUGHT TO NEGOTIATE WITH A 30-MAN MUJAHIDIN FORCE WHICH HAS APPROACHED THE CITY.

3. (U) LOGAR: FOLLOWING THE DEPLOYMENT OF A MAJOR SOVIET FORCE SOUTH FROM KABUL ALONG THE LOGAR ROAD (PARA 5, REF A) FIGHTING, INVOLVING SOVIET TROOPS AND MUJAHIDIN, WAS REPORTED BETWEEN BACHU, KHER AND SOURKHAB.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3670

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E.O. 12356: DECL: SADR

TAGS: PREL, MOW, NSAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

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SUBJECT: AFGHAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

REPORTEDLY ATTACKED AN RA DIVISION BASE AND CAPTURED A

LARGE NUMBER OF REGIME TROOPS. MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY ARE

ATTEMPTING TO CUT THE GHAZNI - KABUL ROAD. (SEE

"WARDAK" PARA 11, FOR RECENT REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON THE

ROAD.) ON APRIL 8, ACCORDING TO A SEPARATE SOURCE, A

REGIME VEHICLE WAS DESTROYED BY A BOMB INSIDE GHAZNI

TOWN.

10. (U) KANDAHAR: ON OR ABOUT APRIL 11, A MILITARY

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SOURCE FROM THE AREA REPORTS, LT. GENERAL MOHAMMAD ASIF, COMMANDER OF THE KANDAHAR GARRISON, CAME TO KABUL VOWING NOT TO RETURN TO THE CITY. HE COMPLAINED TO DEFENSE MINISTER RAFIE ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF KHALQ-PARCHAM COOPERATION. GENERAL ASIF, WHO IS A KHALDI, HELD THE COMMANDER'S POST IN KANDAHAR FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS. RECENT TRAVELLERS FROM KANDAHAR CORROBORATE EARLIER REPORTS OF INCREASED FIGHTING IN AND AROUND KANDAHAR CITY SINCE AFGHAN NEW YEARS (MARCH 20), AND PARTICULARLY IN RECENT DAYS. ACCORDING TO THESE RECENT REPORTS, MUJAHIDIN, SINCE MARCH 20, HAVE OVERRUN A NUMBER OF POSTS ON KANDAHAR'S OUTER OFFENSE RING. THESE POSTS EITHER HAVE BEEN ABANDONED OR HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY LOCAL MUJAHIDIN FORCES. KANDAHARIS DESCRIBE MUCH OF KANDAHAR AS A "MUJAHIDIN CITY" AFTER 1600. THESE SOURCES CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN NO INDICATION OF PREPARATIONS FOR A SOVIET DEPARTURE FROM THE KANDAHAR AREA. RECENTLY, SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES HAVE MOUNTED

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PRESSURE ON THE RECENTLY SEIZED DISTRICT CENTER OF PANJSHAI, BUT AS OF THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL, MUJAHIDIN REMAINED IN CONTROL. MUJAHIDIN, ACCORDING TO REGIME MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND LOCAL KANDAHARIS, SUCCESSFULLY DISRUPTED THE REGIME'S ATTEMPTS TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN THE CITY. A KANDAHARI REPORTS THAT WHILE 60 - 65 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE OF KANDAHAR WOULD WELCOME A RETURN OF THE FORMER KING, THE REST, MOSTLY COMPRISING YOUNG FUNDAMENTALIST MUSLIMS, ARE SUPPORTERS OF GULBUDDIN HEKMATIAR. AMONG OTHER MUJAHIDIN LEADERS, MUJADDIDI AND MIR DAILANI, BOTH SEEN AS STRONG SUPPORTERS OF THE KING, ARE BROADLY POPULAR. REFLECTING ON THE POWER OF THE MUJAHIDIN TORNCOAT GENERAL ESMATULLAH MUSLIM, A KANDAHARI RELATED THAT RECENTLY IN KANDAHAR THE GENERAL CONFISCATED A LATE MODEL CAR THAT HE REGARDED AS MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN HIS OWN. THE OWNER OF THE CAR, A MAN NAMED TAJ WHO IS THE CHIEF OF KHAD IN KANDAHAR, WAS ABLE TO SECURE THE RETURN OF THE CAR BY GIVING GENERAL ESMATULLAH MUSLIM A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

11. (U) WARDAK: APRIL 10, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A SOVIET CONVOY ON THE KABUL - GHAZNI ROAD AT A LOCATION SOUTH OF CHAKRA. IN THE ATTACK, WHICH BLOCKED TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD FOR ONE DAY, MUJAHIDIN DESTROYED THREE ARMORED VEHICLES. ON APRIL 7-8, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED TWO REGIME POSTS IN THE KOTAL-I TAKHT AREA. FOUR RA TROOPS WERE KILLED, WHILE ONE MUJAHID WAS INJURED.

12. (U) HELMAND: A SOURCE FROM THE AREA REPORTS THAT SOVIET AND REGIME FORCES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH TO THE KAJAKI AREA (32°16'N 65°02'E) AND COMPLETE THE

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INSTALLATION OF POWER LINES FROM THE AREA OF THE DAM AT
THE SITE TO THE KANDAHAR-HERAT ROAD.

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO LUG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	CIAE-00
4-01	MSC-01	NSCE-00	NSAE-00	SSD-00	HA-09	L-03
TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	QAB-01	INRE-00	RP-10	ACDA-12
SP-02	SNP-01	E-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSE-00	P-02
T-01	77754					

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3 180843Z APR 80

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

FM SPOSTATE VAS400 IMMEDIATE 2671

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AFHQ VAK COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USIA WASHDC 4349

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCPAC HAWAII HI 06

RT BRASS NO ARMS//P/R//SI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCSAREM HELLERBERG OH

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAF RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

USNMA SHAPE DE//INTAFF//

USCENTCOM MACILL AFB FL//CCJ2-IDM//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

MOULANA/347 TFW HOOBY AFB GA//IN//

USDOCSOUTH CARLES IT

RSTC INTEL OPS COM LOTTESVILLE VA//AIAS1-ID/CM//

C O I F I D E N T I A L SECTION 06 OF 10 KABUL 00880

MILITARY ADDRESSES ALSO FOR POLAND; PARIS ALSO FOR

USRAI; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE FOR 4-0AM

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PAGE 02

KABUL 00880 06 OF 10 180832Z

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPS, NCAP, PHUM, PINS, POLR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

13. (U) LAGHMAN: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS, ON THE BASIS OF TRAVELLERS' ACCOUNTS, THAT SOVIET FORCES HAVE COMPLETELY EVACUATED LAGHMAN PROVINCE (MOST WITHDREW IN MID-SUMMER) AND THAT REMAINING REGIME FORCES ARE LARGELY CONFINED TO THEIR CAMPS BY SECURITY CONCERNS. TRIBAL MILITIA REPORTEDLY PLAY A KEY ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIME IN THE AREA.

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14. (U) PAKTIA: NUMEROUS AFGHANS, INCLUDING MILITARY SOURCES, REPORT HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE AREA WITH MANY CASUALTIES.

15. (U) HERAT: A DIPLOMAT OF UNDETERMINED REPORTING RELIABILITY CLAIMS THAT KHAD AND SARANDOI TROOPS CLASHED IN HERAT ON APRIL 1. MORE THAN TEN WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED. A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 7, MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A REGIME CONVOY MOVING BETWEEN SHINDAND AND HERAT. MUJAHIDIN CAPTURED APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF OF THE VEHICLES IN THE CONVOY BUT WERE STRUCK BY AIRCRAFT BEFORE THEY COULD MAKE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE. THE MUJAHIDIN WERE ABLE TO DESTROY SOME THE VEHICLES BEFORE RETREATING. OTHER DIPLOMATS REPORT GENERALIZED FIGHTING IN THE HERAT AREA. (SEE "POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS" PARA FOR REPORT OF MAJOR REGIME OFFER TO PRINCIPAL MUJAHIDIN COMMANDER IN THE HERAT AREA.)

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16. (U) PARAG: DIPLOMATS REPORT A HEAVY FLOW OF SUPPLIES FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO SHINDAND (REF A) IS CONTINUING. FIGHTING IS REPORTED ONGOING NEAR SHINDAND.

17. (U) PAKTIA: REGIME TROOPS RETURNING FROM FIGHTING IN THE URGUN AREA CONTINUE TO REPORT VERY DIFFICULT FIGHTING DUE IN PART TO THE HEAVY MUJAHIDIN MINING OF THE AREA. ONE RA SOLDIER TOLD OF HEAVY CASUALTIES INCURRED BY HIS UNIT IN EARLY APRIL AS A RESULT OF MINES SET OUT IN THE KARTAWAZ AREA. MANY VEHICLES REPORTEDLY ALSO WERE LOST TO THE MINES.

18. (U) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:

A. NAJIBULLAH OFFERS PM SLOT TO ISMAEL KHAN: A DIPLOMAT WITH GOOD ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGARDING HERAT, REPORTS THAT NAJIB RECENTLY OFFERED THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER TO THE SENIOR MUJAHIDIN COMMANDER IN HERAT AND MUCH OF THE WEST, ISMAEL KHAN. KHAN REPORTEDLY DISMISSED THE OFFER.

B. REGIME ELECTIONS CONCLUDE: THE APRIL 5-15 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS CONCLUDED THIS WEEK WITH REGIME CLAIMS THAT ONE AND ONE HALF MILLION VOTERS PARTICIPATED. OBSERVATIONS OF POLLING PLACES IN KABUL, EVEN BY EASTERN DIPLOMATS, LED TO A CONCLUSION THAT THE NUMBERS PARTICIPATING WERE IN FACT FAR LOWER. THE ELECTION PROCESS WAS MARKED BY IRREGULARITIES. ELECTION LAW MANDATE FOR A "SECRET BALLOT" FELL BY THE WAYSIDE. THE MEDIA REFLECTED CRITICISM OF A POLICY OF TRANSPORTING VOTERS FROM ONE AREA TO ANOTHER AREA AT STATE EXPENSE TO ASSURE A GOOD TURNOUT FOR FAVORED CANDIDATES. CHILDREN AS YOUNG AS 13 WERE RELIABLY

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BUILDING NOW BEING REFURBISHED. (SBS KABL 0871 AND 0865 FOR FULLER TREATMENT OF THE SITUATION.) EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS, BEFORE THE CLOSING OF POLLS, SAID THAT THE POPA WOULD ACCUMULATE ROUGHLY 25 PERCENT OF THE VOTES, THUS GUARANTEEING A COSMETIC POPA MINORITY ROLL IN THE POWERLESS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

12. (U) MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS:

A. REGIME MEDIA REVEALS DOWNED AIRCRAFT TO HAVE BEEN MILITARY: KABUL TELEVISION, APRIL 12, SHOWED THE AN-26 WHICH THE REGIME HAD ALLEGED WAS SHOT DOWN APRIL 10 BY MUJAHIDIN ON A FLIGHT FROM MAIMANA TO HAZAR-I-SHARIF (KABL 0874 AND 0864). CONTRADICTING REGIME CLAIMS THAT THE AN-26 WAS A "CIVILIAN" AIRCRAFT, THE KABUL TELEVISION FOOTAGE CLEARLY SHOWED AN OLIVE DRAB CRAFT WITH MILITARY MARKINGS. (COMMENT: DESPITE NUMEROUS CLAIMS BY THE REGIME OF DOWNINGS OF CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT BY MUJAHIDIN, THE REGIME HAS YET TO PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHIC OR

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OTHER EVIDENCE THAT MUJAHIDIN HAVE EVER DOWNED A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT.)

B. POSSIBLE SOVIET PULLBACK FROM JALALABAD IMMINENT: EAST EUROPEAN SOURCES HAVE TOLD THEIR COLLEAGUES THAT ONE OF THE FIRST POINTS FROM WHICH SOVIET TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN IS JALALABAD.

C. SOVIETS CONTINUE MILITARY SUPPLY OF KABUL REGIME: AN AFGHAN REPORTS SOVIET AIRCRAFT BROUGHT LARGE QUANTITIES OF MILITARY SUPPLIES (AMMUNITION AND WEAPONS) INTO KABUL AIRPORT APRIL 11. DIPLOMATS OBSERVED UNUSUALLY HEAVY SOVIET AN-12 ARRIVALS (13 FLIGHTS) THAT MORNING. ACCORDING TO THE AFGHAN, THESE SUPPLIES WERE FLOWN AND CONVEYED TO REGIME MILITARY INSTALLATIONS APRIL 13. MANY OF THE SUPPLIES REPORTEDLY WERE TRUCKED TO THE REGIME BASE AT RISKKHOR, SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL. IL-76 ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES WERE ALSO UP SIGNIFICANTLY DURING THE WEEK. NIGHTTIME AN-12 TRAFFIC INTO AND OUT OF KABUL DURING THE WEEK CONTINUED TO BE HEAVY, REFLECTING A TREND NOTED IN RECENT WEEKS.

D. CASUALTIES: ON APRIL 11, MANY SOVIET AND REGIME CASUALTIES ARRIVED AT KABUL AIRPORT. SOVIET AND REGIME AMBULANCES WERE ON HAND TO RECEIVE THE DEAD AND WOUNDED. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHERE THEY WERE BROUGHT FROM. A LARGE NUMBER OF SOVIET AMBULANCES WERE OBSERVED PARKED OUTSIDE THE SOVIET MILITARY HOSPITAL IN SHARE NAU, APRIL 13 AND APRIL 15. DURING THE WEEK, OBSERVERS NOTED TO IL-76 AIRCRAFT BEARING RED CROSS LOGOS, THE FIRST TIME IL-76'S HAVE BEEN SEEN IN KABUL WITH SUCH MARKINGS.

E. AN-74 AIRCRAFT ACTIVE OVER KABUL: THE NEWLY ARRIVED

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00

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TRSE-00

SP-02

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KABUL 00880 08

ADS-00

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NSAE-00

CME-01

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EUR-00

SSO-00

INRE-00

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CIAE-00

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O 180648Z APR 88

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8873

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USIA WASHDC 2351

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCPAC VAIHINGER GE

PT BRAGG MC AFWS//PDE//SL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

USNVR SHAPE BE//INTAFF//

JSCF/COM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

DEFENSE COMMUNICATION SUPPORT GROUP

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USDOCSOUTH NAPLES IT

RSTC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10/C4I//

C D N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 08 OF 10 KABUL 00880

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLADS; PARIS ALSO FOR

JSDAG; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAH, MR. BRUND; THE HAGUE

FOR A-DAM

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREL, MOPAY, MCAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

AN-74 (REF'S A AND B) HAS BEEN ACTIVE SINCE ARRIVAL

INCLUDING NIGHT FLIGHTS.

20. (U) HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS:

A. MORE REPORTS OF EXECUTIONS AT PUL-I-CHARKHI PRISON:

A RESIDENT OF KANDAHAR CORROBORATED EARLIER REPORTS

(KABUL 747, PARA 17 AND PREVIOUS) OF EXECUTIONS AT

PUL-I-CHARKHI PRISON EARLY IN 1988. ACCORDING TO THE

REPORT, SEVERAL HUNDRED EXECUTIONS WERE CARRIED OUT IN

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RECENT MONTHS. THE INFORMATION WAS SOURCED TO REGIME OFFICIALS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF A NUMBER OF KANDAHARI CITIZENS CREATED AT THE PRISON TO FAMILIES IN KANDAHAR. THE SOURCE FOR THE REPORT CLAIMED SHE KNEW ONE OF THE VICTIMS PERSONALLY, A SHOOPKEEPER NAMED DAVI.

1. AERIAL BOMBARDMENTS IN PARWAN: PARA 6, REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PARWAN, NOTES REPRISAL AERIAL AND ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS IN CIVILIAN AREAS IN PARWAN.

2. REGIME ATTEMPTS TO AUGMENT MILITARY RECRUITMENT: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS REGIME EFFORTS TO EXPAND MILITARY RECRUITMENT. THE REGIME EFFORTS REPORTEDLY HAVE LED TO SEVERAL DEATHS IN KABUL THAT EVEN 14 AND 15 YEAR OLD BOYS MAY BE VULNERABLE TO PRESSGANG SEIZURES.

31. (U) ROAD SECURITY:

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4. SALANG ROAD: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT ACCORDING TO TRAVELLERS, MUJAHIDIN RECENTLY HAVE STOPPED UP THEIR ATTACKS ON CONVOYS IN THE SALANG SOUTH OF THE SALANG TUNNEL IN PARWAN PROVINCE. POSSIBLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE INCREASING VOLUME OF SUPPLIES COMING TO KABUL FROM THE SOVIET UNION, THE MUJAHIDIN REPORTEDLY ARE CONFISCATING FUNDS FROM THE CONVOYS THEY ATTACK.

5. JALALABAD ROAD: A DIPLOMAT, REPORTING ON THE BASIS OF TRAVELLERS' ACCOUNTS, STATES THAT MUJAHIDIN ATTACKED A REGIME CONVOY ON THE ROAD APRIL 10, KILLING TWO REGIME SOLDIERS AND CAPTURING THREE.

22. (U) SOVIET OCCUPATION DEVELOPMENTS:

1. SOVIET INTIMIDATION OF TRAVELLERS: REGULAR TRAVELLERS ON THE JALALABAD ROAD REPORT THAT RECENTLY, MORE SOVIET TROOPS ON THE JALALABAD ROAD ARE DEMANDING MONEY, GOODS AND VALUABLES FROM TRAVELLERS ON THE ROUTE MORE AGGRESSIVELY.

2. SOVIET ADVISORS PULL OUT FROM WEST? AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT CLAIMS SOME SENIOR SOVIET ADVISORS IN THE HERAT AND SHINGAND AREAS RECENTLY RETURNED PERMANENTLY TO THE SOVIET UNION.

3. VODKA PRICES UP: THE PRICE OF VODKA IN THE LOCAL MARKET REPORTEDLY HAS DOUBLED IN RECENT WEEKS (UP TO 1500 AFGHANIS OR ROUGHLY 7.50 DOLLARS), PRESUMABLY AS SOVIET PERSONNEL STOCK UP BEFORE RETURNING HOME.

33. (U) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

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INFO LOG-00

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ACDA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0674

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AFGHAN WAR COLLECTIVE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USIA WASHDC 2352

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

JSCINCEUR VAHINGTON GE

BT BRAGG NC AFVS//PHE//SA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE

HQ USAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//INCO

JSNVP SHAPE SE//INTAFF//

USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-10M//

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AFSC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA//AIAST-10/CM1//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 09 OF 10 KABUL 00880

MILITARY ADDRESSEES ALSO FOR POLARS; PARIS ALSO FOR

USDAO; DEPARTMENT ALSO FOR NEA/PAB, MR. BRUNO; THE HAGUE

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E.O. 12356: DECLASS

TAGS: PREL, MOD, CAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGHAN SITUATION REPORT: APRIL 11 - 17

A. AFGHANI STRONG: THE AFGHANI TRADED ON THE FREE

CURRENCY MARKET AT A RATE OF 167 FOR ONE U.S. DOLLAR.

THE RATE MARKED A NINE PERCENT GAIN OVER THE RATE

EARLIER IN THE WEEK, PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE GENEVA

ACCORDS. ANALYSTS BELIEVE THE AFGHANI IS REACTING TO

THE PROSPECT OF A STRONG DEMAND FOR THE CURRENCY

GENERATED BY RETURNING REFUGEES.

B. MARKET SURVEY: KABUL 00880 PROVIDES DETAILED

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ANALYSIS OF COMMODITY MARKET TRENDS FOR MARCH.

24. (U) REFUGEE DEVELOPMENTS: A RESIDENT OF KANDAHAR PROVINCE REPORTS THAT ON THE BASIS OF CONTACTS WITH RELATIVES AND FRIENDS NOW LIVING AS REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN THE TWO DOMINANT CONCERNS RELATED TO THE TIMING OF THEIR RETURN ARE THE END OF FIGHTING IN THE AREAS THEY SEEK TO RETURN TO AND ASSURANCE THAT YOUNG MALES IN THE FAMILIES WILL NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE REGIME'S MILITARY DRAFT. THE LATTER CONCERN LEADS MANY OF THE REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN TO AWAIT THE DEMISE OF REGIME CONTROL IN THE AREAS THEY INTEND TO RETURN TO.

25. (U) KABUL MEDIA DEVELOPMENTS: (THIS REGULAR KABUL SITUATION REPORT FEATURE, BEGINNING THIS WEEK, WILL BE CARRIED IN A NEW, SEPARATE WEEKLY REPORTING SERIES, "KABUL MEDIA REVIEW", SEPTCL.).

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26. (C) NOT TO BE RELEASED TO PRESS:

A. REGIME AMMUNITION STORES: A RELIABLE DIPLOMAT REPORTS THAT SOVIET FORCES HAVE PROVIDED ONE YEAR'S AMMUNITION SUPPLIES TO THE FOLLOWING CITIES: KABUL, GARDEZ, KHIST, JALALABAD AND KANDAHAR. THE SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION STORES FOR ALL OF THESE CITIES FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS AT THE CENTRAL AMMUNITION RESERVE AT PUL-I-KHUMRI. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY, THE SOVIETS HAVE PROVIDED AMMUNITION STORES AS WELL TO OTHER CITIES SUCH AS HERAT AND MAZAR-I-SHARIF ALTHOUGH THESE WERE NOT MENTIONED BY SOURCE.)

B. SEPAH-I-PASDARAN OPERATIVE IN PARWAN: A RELIABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE CLAIMS THE KILLING OF GENERAL SHAH AJA, APRIL 10 (PARA 17), WAS THE WORK OF THE IRANIAN-BASED SEPAH-I-PASDARAN. THE SHIITE GROUP HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE HAZARA PORTIONS OF PARWAN PROVINCE FOR SOME TIME.

C. WAKIL TO BE SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE?: ABDEL HATIF, REMOVED TO BE TAPPED AS SPEAKER OF THE LOWER HOUSE (REF A), HAS DENIED THIS AND HINTED THAT THE SPEAKER MAY IN FACT BE CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER ABDEL WAKIL.

D. ICRC EXPANSION: THE ICRC IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE REGIME FOR ARRIVAL OF 100 HERCULES AIRCRAFT CARRYING SUPPLIES FOR WHAT IS EMERGING AS A MAJOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE OPERATION. ICRC REPORTEDLY IS RESISTING REGIME PRESSURE TO TURN OVER SUPPLIES ABSENT ICRC CONTROLS. THE ICRC HOPES TO MOVE INTO ITS 100-BED HOSPITAL IN KABUL IN SEVERAL MONTHS. PLANS HAVE EMERGED, HOWEVER, FOR A POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF THE

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ACTION: NSA-11

INFO: C-00	ADS-00	AID-00	IA-00	CA-00	SA-00	CTAS-00
W-01	MSC-01	MSOE-00	MSAE-00	SSB-00	HA-00	L-03
FOSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	JA-01	INPA-00	RP-10	ACDA-12
SP-00	SP-01	C-01	PRS-01	DS-01	DSB-00	P-02
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INFO: DSTAT, KASHG, IMMEDIATE

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INFO: 12356: DECL: OADR

INFO: PREL, MOD, CAP, PHUM, PINS, PINR, PROP, SREF,

ASEC, UR, AF

SUBJECT: AFGN, IN SITU

210N REPORT: 11 - 17

FACILITY TO A 500-BED HOSPITAL.

E. SOVIET AMBASSADOR SICK: NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR

NIKOLAY YEGORYCHEV.

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YEGORYCHEV IS UNABLE TO ATTEND
CELEBRATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND HONORING THE 100TH

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ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN'S BIRTH.

27. MOSCOW MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. CLASS: 11

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